

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6173

ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017

Quality of Packaged Foods

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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has developed innovative and latest scientific technology in food processing sector to provide high quality packaged food in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of food processed during the last five years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate and maintain food safety in the country; and
- (d) the various stringent measures taken by the Government to control and curb the illegal dumping and hoarding of chinese food products in the country?

Answer

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under its scheme of Research & Development in Processed Food Sector, extends financial assistance as grant-in-aid to various institutions/ universities, Public funded organizations and recognized Research & Development (R&D) laboratories both in public and private sector, to promote and undertake demand driven R&D work in food processing sector including development of innovative and latest scientific technology to provide high quality packaged food. Details of R&D projects in the field of food packaging technology assisted by MoFPI are at Annexure-I. This helps in increasing the quantum of food processed.

(c): As per information received from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, FSSAI has issued various regulations such as: i) Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011; ii) Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011; iii) Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 and iv) Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

The implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. FSSAI is also taking comprehensive steps for consumer awareness generation and redressal of consumer complaints and to achieve this goal, it has recently launched a consumer connect initiative under which consumers can reach FSSAI through multiple modes such as SMS, WhatsApp, twitter, FSSAI App, Toll Free Number, FSSAI Facebook Page and Food Safety Voice.

(d): FSSAI regulates import of food articles to check for safety and quality of food products being imported into the country. FSSAI is present at six ports. viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin and Tuticorin. Food Import Clearance System (FICS) of FSSAI is an online system operational at above mentioned six ports . Food products when referred to FSSAI for clearance by the Custom Authorities under Risk Managements System are subjected to visual inspection, sampling and testing in order to determine whether or not they conform to the safety and quality standards in respect of the imported food products established and laid down under various Food Safety and Standards Regulations. Only after such conformity is established on the basis of laboratory report, NOCs (No Objection Certificates) are issued for the consignments. Further, vide order No. 1-13/FSSAI/DP/2008 dated 15.06.2016 , FSSAI has imposed and extended ban on import of milk and milk products, including chocolates and chocolate products and candies/confectionary/food preparations with milk and milk solids as ingredients from China upto 23.06.2017.